THE SHORTER

CATECHISM

Agreed upon by

The Reverend Assembly

OF

DIVINES

AT

WESTMINSTER.

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Quest. VV *Hat is the chief end of Man?*

Answ. Mans chief end is to glorifie God *a*, and fully to enjoy him for ever *b*.

a 1 Cor. 31. Rom. 11. 36.
b Psal. 73. 24. to end.

Q. *What Rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorifie & enjoy him?*

Answ. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament *c*, is the only Rule to direct us how we may glorifie and enjoy him *d*.

c 2 Tim. 3. 16. Eph. 2. 20. d 1 Joh. 1. 3. 7. 1. 4.

Qu. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man *a*.

a Tim. 1. 3. 10.

Qu. *What is God?*

A. God

Wisdome, Power &c. Holinesse,
Justice, Goodnesse and Truth &c.

Q. Are there more Gods then one?

A. There is but one only the living
and the true God.

Q. How many persons are there in
the God-head?

A. There are three persons in the
Godhead; the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Ghost; and these three are
one God; the same substance, equal
in power and glory.

Q. What are the Decrees of God?

A. The Decrees of God are his eter-
nal purpose, according to the counsell
of his will, whereby for his own glory,
he hath foreordained whatsoever
comes to passe.

Q. How doth God fulfill his Decrees?

A. God executeth his Decrees in the
works of Creation and providence.

Q. What is the work of Creation?

A. The work of Creation is Gods
making all things of nothing, by the
word of his power, in the space of six
dayes, and all very good.

A 2

10 Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female after his own Image in knowledg righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures t,

t Gen. 1. 26. 27. 28. 3. Col. 3. 10.

Q. What are Gods works of Providence?

A. Gods works of Providence are his most holy u, wise w, and powerful, preserving x, and governing all his Creatures, and all their actions y,

u Psal. 145. 17. w Psalm 14. x Heb. 1. 3. y Psal. 103. 19.

Q. What special act of Providence did God exercise toward man in the Estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man he entred into a Covenant of life with him upon condition of perfect obedience forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of Death z,

z Gal. 3. 1.

Q. Did our first Parents continue in the Estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedome of their own will fell from the Estate wherein they were created by sinning against God a,

Q. What is sin,

A. Sin is any want of conformity

 unto

into the transgression of the Law of God.

Q. What was the Sin whereby our first Parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. That Sin whereby our first Parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit. c

Q. Did all Mankind fall in Adams first Transgression?

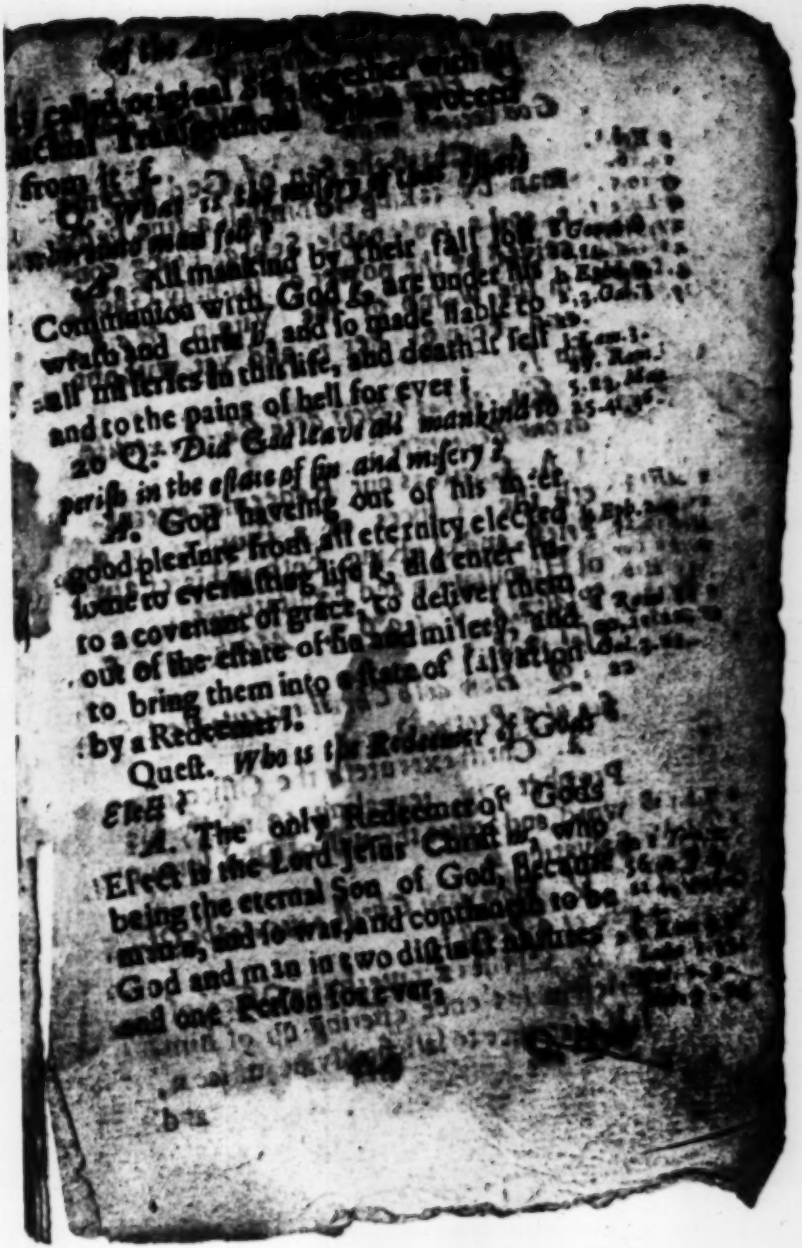
A. The Covenant being made with Adam not only for himself, but for his Posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression d.

Q. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery e.

Q. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate wherein man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate wherein man fell, consists in the guilt of Adams first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commo-



[illegible] called original Sin, together with [illegible] Transgressions [illegible] proceed from it f.

Q. *What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. All mankind by their fall lost Communion with God g, are under his wrath and curse h, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, and death itself and to the pains of hell for ever i.

20 Q. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A. God haveing out of his meer good pleasure from all eternity elected some to everlasting life k, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer l.

Quest. *Who is the Redeemer of Gods Elect?*

A. The only Redeemer of Gods Elect is the Lord Jesus Christ m, who being the eternal Son of God, became man n, and so was, and continueth to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one Person for ever.

[illegible]

Q. How did Christ being the Son of God become man?

A. Christ the Son of God became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable Soul, being conceived by the power of the holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin *Mary*, and born of her, and yet without sin.

Qu. *What Offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Christ as our Redeemer executeth the Offices of a Prophet, of a Priest, and of a King, both in his estate of Humiliation and Exaltation.

Q. *How doth Christ execute the Office of a Prophet?*

A. Christ executeth the Office of a Prophet, in revealing to us by his word and Spirit the will of God for our Salvation.

Q. *How doth Christ execute the Office of a Priest?*

A. Christ executeth the Office of a Priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfie divine justice,

and

and reconcile us to God *x*, and in making continual intercession for us *y*.

Q. How doth Christ execute the Office of a King?

A. Christ executeth the Office of a King in subduing of us to himself *z*, in ruling *a*, and defending us *b*, and in restraining and conquering, all his and our Enemies *c*.

Q. Wherein did Christs Humiliation consist?

A. Christs Humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition *d*, made under the law *e*, undergoing the miseries of this life *f*, the wrath of God *g*, and the cursed death of the Cross *h*, in being buried *i*, and continuing under the power of death for a time *k*.

Q. Wherein consists Christ Exaltation?

A. Christs Exaltation consisteth in his rising again, from the dead on the third day *l*, and in ascending up into heaven *m*, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father *n*, and in coming to judge the world at the last day *o*.

Q. How are we made partakers

of

x Heb. 2. 17. y Heb. 7. 24, 25.

a Ass. 15. 14, 15, 26. a Isaia. 32. 22. b Ps. 32. 1, 2. c 1 Cor. 15. 25. Psal. 10. 3.

d Luk. 2. 7. e Gal. 4. 4. f Heb. 1. 2. 3. Isa. 53. 2, 8. g Luk. 22. 44. Mat. 17. 19. h Phil. 2. 8. i 1 Cor. 15. 3, 4. k Ass. 2. 24, 31.

l 1 Cor. 15. 4. m Mark. 16. 19. n Eph. 1. 20. o Ass. 1. 11. & 17. 31.

of the Redemption purchased by Christ.

A. We are made partakers of the Redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us, by his holy Spirit.

Q. *How doth the holy Spirit apply to us the Redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applyeth to us the Redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our Effectual calling.

Q. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of Gods Spirit, whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, inlightning our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth perswade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel.

Qu. *What benefits do they that are Effectually called partake of in this life?*

A. They that are Effectually called, do in this life partake of Justification, Adoption, Sanctification and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from

them.

Qu.

Q. *What is Justification?*

A Justification is an act of Gods free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins c, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight d, only for the righteousnes of Christ imputed to us e, and received by Faith alone f.

c Rom. 3. 24, 25, 28. d 2 Cor. 5. 19, 21. e Rom. 4. 6, 7, 8. f Rom. 5. 17, 18, 19. Gal. 2. 16. Act. 10. 43.

Q: *What is Adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of Gods free grace g, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the priviledges of the Sons of God h.

g 1 Joh. 3. 1. h Rom. 8. 17.

Q: *What is Sanctification?*

Answ: Sanctification is the work of Gods free grace i, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God k, and are enabled more and more to dy unto sin, and live unto righteousnes.

i 2 Thes. 2. 13. k Eph. 4. 23, 24.

Q. *What are the benefits that in this life do accompany or flow from Justification, Adoption and Sanctification?*

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from Justification, Adoption, and Sanctification, are assurance of Gods love, peace of conscience, joy in the holy Ghost, increase of grace o, and perseverance therein to the end p.

o Prov. 4. 18. p 1 Pet. 1. 5.

Q.

Q. what benefits do believers receive from Christ at death,

A. The Souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness *q*, and do immediatly pass into glory *r*, and their bodies being still united to Christ *s*, do rest in their graves, till the Resurrection *t*,

Q. what benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection.

A. At the Resurrection believers being raised in glory *w*, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of Judgment *x*, and made perfectly blessed in full enjoying of God *y* to all Eternity *z*,

Q. what is the duty which God requireth of man,

A. The duty which God requireth of Man, is obedience to his revealed will *a*,

Q. What did God at first reveal to man as the Rule of his obedience?

A. The Rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the Moral law *b*,

Q. Where is the Moral Law summarily comprehended?

A. The

q Heb. 12. 23. 1 2 Cor. 5. 1. 6. 8. Phil. 1. 23. Luke 23. 43. 1 1 Thes. 4. 14. 1 Isai. 57. 2. 1 John 19. 27. 27. w 1 Cor. 15. 43. 1 Mat. 25. 23. & 10. 32. y 1 John 3. 2. 1 Thes. 13. 12. z 1 Cor. 4. 17. 18.

a Mic. 6. 8. 1 Sam. 15. 22.

b Rom. 2. 14. 15. & 10. 3.

A. The Moral Law is summarily comprehended in the ten Commandments *c*.

Q. *What is the sum of the ten Commandments?*

A. The sum of the ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind, and our Neighbour as our selves *d*.

Q. *What is the Preface to the ten Commandments?*

A. The Preface to the ten Commandments is in these words, *I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

Q. *What doth the Preface to the ten Commandments teach us?*

A. The Preface to the ten Commandments teacheth us, that because God is the Lord, and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his Commandments *f*.

Q. *Which is the first Commandment?*

A. The first Commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other Gods before me* *g*.

Q. *What is required in the first Commandment?*

A. The first Commandment requireth

c Deut. 10. 4.

d Matt. 22. 37. to 40.

e Exod. 20. 2.

f Luke 1. 74. 75. 1 Pet. 1. 15. 16.

g Exod. 20. 3.

as to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God *h*, and to worship and glorifie him accordingly *i*,

h 1 Chron. 8.9. Deu. 26.17 i Mat. 4.10 Psal. 29.2.

Q. *What is forbidden in the first Commandment?*

A. The first Commandment forbidden the denying *k*, or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God *l*, and our God *m*, and the giving that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone *n*.

k Psal. 14 1. l Rom. 1.21. m Psal. 81 10, 11. n Rom. 1. 25, 26.

Q. *What are we especially taught by these words (before me) in the first Commandment?*

A. These words (*before me*) in the first Commandment teach us, that God who seeth all things, taketh notice of and is much displeased with the sin of hareing any other God *o*,

o Ezek. 8. 5. to end.

Q. *Which is the second Commandment?*

A. The second Commandment is, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven Image, or the likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above, or that is in the Earth beneath: or that is in the water under the Earth thou shalt not bow down thy self*

to

to them nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the Fathers upon the Children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me & keep my Commandments p.

50 Q. What is required in the second Commandment?

A. The second Commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious Worship and Ordinances, as God hath appointed in his Word q,

Q. What is forbiden in the second Commandment?

A, The second Commandment forbiddeth the Worship of God by Images r, or any other way not appointed in his Word s,

Q. What are the Reasons annexed to the second Commandment?

A. The Reasons annexed to the second Commandment are Gods Sovereignty over us t, his propriety in us u, and the zeal he hath to his own Worship w

Q. Which is the third Commandment?

A, The

p Exod. 20. 4, 5, 6.

q Deut. 32. 4, 6. Matth. 28. Act. 3. 4, 5.

r Deut. 4. 15, 17. Exod. 32. 8. s Deut. 12. 30, 31.

t Psal. 6. 2, 3, 6.

u Psal. 45. 11. w Ezek. 13. 19.

A. The third Commandment is, *Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain* x.

Q. *What is required in the third Commandment?*

A. The third Commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of Gods Name y, Titles z, Attributes a, Ordinances b, Words c, and Works d.

Q. *What is forbidden in the third Commandment?*

A. The third Commandment forbiddeth all prophaning or abuſing of any thing whereby God makes himſelf known e.

Q. *What is the Reaſon annexed to the third Commandment?*

A. The Reaſon annexed to the third Commandment is that however the breakers of this Commandment may eſcape puniſhment from men, yet the Lord our God will not ſuffer them to eſcape his righteous judgement.

Q. *Which is the fourth Commandment?*

A. The fourth Commandment is, *Remember*

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, Thou, nor thy Son, nor thy Daughter, nor thy Man-servant, nor thy Maid-servant, nor thy Cattle, nor the Stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it [g].

[g] Exod. xx. 8, 9, 10, 11.

Q. *What is required in the fourth Commandment?*

A. The fourth Commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself [h].

[h] Deut. v. 12, 13, 14.

Q. *Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?*

A. From the Beginning of the world to the Resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath, and the first day of the Week ever since to

to the end of the world, which is the
Genes.2.3 Christian Sabbath i,
1 Cor.16.1

Q. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

4 Act.20. 7. Exo.20 8,10. Lev 23.25,39. Neh.13 15 21. m Luk 4.16. Act. 20.7. Psal. 92. title. Isai 66.23 n Mat.12. 1,13. A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day k, even from such worldly imployments and recreations as are lawfull on other dayes l, and spending the whole time in the publick and private exercises of Gods worship m, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy n.

Q. *What is forbidden in the fourth Commandment?*

o Ezek.22 18. Amos 8.5. Mal 1 13 p Act. 20.7,9. q Ezek.23 38. r Jer. 17.24. Isai 58.13 A. The fourth Commandment forbiddeth the omission, or carelesse performance of the duties required o, and profaning the day by idlenesse p, or doing that which is in it self sinfull q, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly imployments or Recreations r,

Q. *What are the Reasons annexed to the fourth Commandment?*

f Exod. 20 9. A. The Reasons annexed to the fourth Commandment, are Gods allowing us six dayes of the week for our own imployments f, his challenging

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